

PUBLIC NOTICE • PUBLIC NOTICE

USDA-Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest Sierraville Ranger District, Sierra County LITTLE TRUCKEE SUMMIT PARKING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 30-DAY COMMENT PERIOD

The Sierraville Ranger District of the Tahoe National Forest is seeking comments on the Little Truckee Summit (LTS) Parking Area Improvement Project Preliminary Environmental Assessment during a 30-day Comment Period.

The Little Truckee Summit parking and trailhead area is located approximately 8 miles south of

Sierraville, California on State Highway 89. Demand for winter parking far exceeds the capacity of the existing parking areas at LTS parking and trailhead area, and the existing configuration of the parking lot does not meet current user needs. In recent instances, more than 100 vehicle/trailer combinations and other vehicles have been observed using the site, which was designed for up to 60 users. On winter weekends, parking at LTS frequently spills onto the shoulder on both sides of State Highway 89, and into unmaintained areas. Parking along State Highway 89 poses public safety concerns, as the route is a heavily-used thoroughfare that is subject to weather extremes and to limited-sight distances given the highway alignment on a ridge top. The project is needed to improve parking lot safety by increasing parking lot capacity to meet current demand by improving and updating facilities at the parking and trailhead area.

The project Proposed Action would construct a new lot to expand the current parking capacity, repave the existing lot, realign and replace access routes, upgrade and increase restroom and grooming shed facilities, and install a warming hut. The total area affected would be approximately 11 acres, of which 5 acres would be temporarily affected and rehabilitated after project construction. The Little Truckee Summit Parking Area Improvement Project Preliminary Environmental Assessment is available for review at the Sierraville Ranger District or on-line at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=46058>. For additional information, contact Karie Wiltshire at the Sierraville Ranger District at kwiltshire@fs.fed.us; (530) 994-3401.

This project is subject to the pre-decisional administrative review (objection) process pursuant to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. The Forest Service will accept comments on this proposal for 30 days following publication of the opportunity to comment legal notice in The Mountain Messenger newspaper (Downieville, CA), which is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. Commenters should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. It is the commenter's responsibility to ensure that their comments are received by the Forest Service in a timely manner (36 CFR 218.25).

Written comments should be submitted to: Sierraville Ranger District - Attn: LTS Parking Improvement Project; P.O. Box 95 (317 South Lincoln), Sierraville, CA 96126; telephone (530) 994-3401. Comments may be submitted by FAX (530) 587-6914 or by hand-delivery to the address shown above during business hours (M-F 8:00am to 4:30pm). Electronic comments, in common (.doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, etc.) formats, may be submitted via email to: comments-pacificsouthwest-tahoe-sierraville@fs.fed.us

Names of commenters will be part of the public record subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Only individuals or entities (as defined by 36 CFR 218.2) who submit timely and specific written comments about this proposed project during this or another public comment period established by the Responsible Official will be eligible to file an objection. Comments should be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and must include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider (36 CFR 218.2). Other eligibility requirements are defined by 36 CFR 218.25(a)(3) and include name, postal address, title of the project and signature or other verification of identity upon request and the identity of the individual or entity who authored the comments. Individual members of an entity must submit their own individual comments in order to have eligibility to object as an individual. A timely submission will be determined as outlined in 36 CFR 218.25(a)(4). It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure timely receipt of any comments submitted.

Information received in response to this solicitation, including names, addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, the agency will not be able to provide subsequent documents to people who submit comments anonymously, and they will not have standing to file an objection.

For questions or more information, contact Jeff Wiley, OHV Program Manager, at: jwiley@fs.fed.us or 530-994-3401 extension 6667. Thank you for your interest in the management of your National Forest.

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